

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1, after line 2, please insert the following:

--CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

A1  
This application is a Divisional of Application No. 08/961,851, filed on October 31, 1997. <sup>now U.S. Pat. No. 6,281,523</sup>

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-12, without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please rewrite claim 13 as follows:

A2 3  
~~13.~~ (Once Amended) A semiconductor optical waveguide as defined in claim ~~14~~,  
wherein said optical element is a semiconductor laser.

Please add the following new claims 14 and 15:

A3  
~~14.~~ A semiconductor optical waveguide comprising a first semiconductor layer overlying a semiconductor substrate, said first semiconductor layer having an aluminum concentration which increases from a central part, as viewed in the thickness direction of said semiconductor layer toward both surfaces of said first semiconductor layer, said first semiconductor layer having a non-oxidized region constituting an optical waveguide and an oxidized region surrounding said non-oxidized region and an optical element having an active layer coupled with said optical waveguide.--

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~~15.~~ A semiconductor optical waveguide as defined in claim ~~14~~ wherein said first semiconductor layer has a composition of  $Al_xGa_{1-x}As$ , given x being not greater than 1.--